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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/693,343	10/24/2003	Jong-Te Lin	T-1269	2698

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EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, RUTH C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3677

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/693,343	Applicant(s) LIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Ruth C Rodriguez	Art Unit 3677	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10 and 11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3 and 5-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

HL

PD

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Species i in the reply filed on 21 April 2005 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 10 and 11 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected Species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 21 April 2005.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: 41. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If

the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

4. The drawings are objected to because reference character "11" at the upper left hand side of Figure 3 should be replaced with reference character --10--. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- Page 6, line 22, "4.5" should be replaced with --4, 5--.
- Page 8, line 6, "(44)" should be replaced with --(43)--.

Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1, 4 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kotlier (US 6,082,753).

A quick-release joint (50) for two tubes (20,30) comprises a hollow cylindrical first connector (200), a hollow cylindrical second connector (100) and a retainer (60). The hollow cylindrical first connector securely connects to a first tube (Figs. 2 and 3). The first connector has an inner lip (216) formed on an inner surface of the first connector. The hollow cylindrical second connector securely connects to a second tube (Figs. 2 and 3). The second connector is pivotally connected to the first connector and is axially offset from the first connector (Figs. 2 and 4). The second connector has a protrusion (extending from 114 towards 102) formed on an inner surface of the second connector and has an outer groove formed on the protrusion next to the top surface of the second

connector to correspond to the inner lip (Fig. 2). The retainer is formed on a side of the first connector and the second connector to move the first connector to axially align with the second connector such that the inner lip is received in the outer groove of the protrusion to secure connection between the first connector and the second connector (Fig. 3).

The retainer comprises a push (64) securely engaged with an outer side surface of the first connector, a bolt (66) with a first distal end extending into the second connector to securely connect to an inner surface of the second connector and a handle (62) rotatable relative to the push and having a second distal end of the bolt rotatably received by a rotating axle (63) inside the handle. The handle has an eccentric cammed head selectively engaging with a concave outer surface of the push so as to push the first connector to axially align with the second connector (Figs. 2-4).

A quick-release joint (50) for two tubes (20,30) has a first connector (200), a second connector (100) and a retainer (60). The first connector securely connects to a first tube (Figs. 2 and 3). The first connector has a first inner lip (216) formed on an inner surface of the first connector. The second connector securely connects to a second tube (Figs. 2 and 3). The second connector is pivotally connected to the first connector and is axially offset from the first connector (Figs. 2 and 4). The second connector has a protrusion (extending from 114 towards 102) formed on an inner surface of the second connector and has an outer groove formed on the protrusion next to a top face of the second connector to correspond to the first inner lip (Fig. 2). The retainer is formed on a side of the first connector and the second connector to move the

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first connector to align with the second connector such that the first inner lip is received in the outer groove of the protrusion to secure connection between the first connector and the second connector (Fig. 3). The improvements comprise that the retainer includes a first arm(62A), a second arm (68), a cylindrical connector (63) and a threaded bolt (66). The first arm is securely connected to an outer surface of the first connector and has a tubular connector integrally formed with the first arm (Figs. 2-4). The second arm is securely connected to an outer surface of the second connector (Figs. 2-4). The threaded bolt extends through the cylindrical connector to be ready to abut an inner surface of the second connector (Figs. 2-4). The first connector is misaligned with the second connector before the extension of the threaded bolt (Figs. 2 and 4). The second connector is moved by the extension of the threaded bolt to axially align with the first connector after the threaded bolt threadingly extends further into the cylindrical connector to abut the inner surface of the second connector (Fig. 3).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 2, 3 and 5-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fisher (US 3,187,373), Victor (US 4,111,217), Roche (US 4,286,353), Hellenstam et al. (US 4,895,386), Ju (US 5,195,551), Liao (US 5,681,045), Liao (US 5,685,660), Kotlier (US 6,082,753), Wu (US 6,629,900 B2) and Ham (US 6,679,643 B1) are cited to show state of the art with respect to quick-release joint for two tubes having some of the features claimed by the current application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7070. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (571) 272-7075.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase the patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as PTO's mailroom processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence **not** permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP § 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee

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to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee that the applicant is paying by check **should not be** submitted by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP § 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to
the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 872-9306) on (Date).

(Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate)

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP § 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response has been transmitted by facsimile will cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application, duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-6640.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ruth C. Rodriguez

Patent Examiner

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rcr

May 16, 2005